



SOON

This photo essay was born of desperation.

A few months ago, when we hatched the idea, we feared that the winter of 2017-2018 would never end. Governor Steve Bullock had recently declared a state of emergency for parts of Montana hit by a late-season blizzard. Then the snow and cold

continued, week after week after week. We began to panic.

It seemed like years since we'd sat on a sunny bank, or waded a stream, or held a fish in our hands. We figured that you, our readers, felt the same way. So we gathered together the best photographs of fishing and fish we could find, to prove to ourselves and

to you that such things do exist. To give us all hope.

When this issue of *Montana Outdoors* went to press in early April, three weeks after the first day of spring, FWP had just closed the Smith River due to ice jams. Residents of Butte were still waking up to lows in the single digits. Snowdrifts along roads into Browning were 10 feet high.

As you read this, we hope that the Long Night is

finally over. That snow shovels are stowed away and flip-flops are back in rotation. And that when you finish gazing at these beautiful images of Montana life on and below water, you'll put on some shorts, pick up a rod, and get out there.

Squeeze every drop out of summer. Winter will be back before you know it.

—Editor

An angler selects a fly at Hebgen Lake
JOHN JURACEK



Left: A Yellowstone cutthroat trout rises to a salmonfly
JUDY WANTULOK

Below: Crappie fishing from a canoe on Tongue River Reservoir
JACK BALLARD



Above: Streamer details
JASON SAVAGE

Right: Fly rod and reel
VICTOR SCHENDEL



Above: Girl and mom fly-fishing.
ED COYLE

Left: Shortnose gar caught with a fly rod at Fort Peck Dredge Cuts Fishing Access Site.
NATHAN COOPER





Right: Longnose
sucker
RYAN BRENECKE



Below: Fishing on the Kootenai River
JESS MCGLOTHLIN

Below: A stringer of freshwater
drum from the Missouri River
ZACHARY R. SHATTUCK

Above: Landing a trout at a high mountain
lake in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness
JESS MCGLOTHLIN

Bottom: A shore lunch
of trout on the grill
PAT MUNDAY

Bottom: Filletting jumbo perch
ALLEN WIEDERRICH

Below: Paddlefish
JEREMIE HOLLMAN





Top: Brook trout in Spanish Creek
THOMAS DAVID RITTER

Above: Pallid sturgeon ready for release
ZACHARY R. SHATTUCK

Above right: Green drake mayfly
BILL DELWICHE

Right: Dorsal fin of an Arctic grayling
JEREMIE HOLLMAN



Left: Sculpin in Tenderfoot Creek
THOMAS DAVID RITTER

Below left: Mountain whitefish in the Bighorn River
LISA DENSMORE BALLARD

Below right: Yellowstone cutthroat trout
MICHAEL L. HARING

Bottom: Golden trout
PATRICK CLAYTON

